THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) According to the information furnished by Stock Exchange, Bombay 5,968 companies are listed with the Stock Exchanges in India as on 31st March, 1990.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Challenges faced by the Agrabatti Industry in overseas markets

3547. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agarbatti industry of India, the 'Fragrant ambassador overseas' is facing grave challenges and competition in overseas markets from Japan and China; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to help the industry to have its due position in the overseas markets ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To promote exports of agarbatti, cash compensatory support @10% and import replenishment @ 15% have been granted. Other incentives available for exporting units in general such as duty free import of raw materials under Duty Exemption Entitlement Scheme, Duty drawback, exemption under section 80 HHC of Income Tax, in respect of export profits, retention of 10% of foreign exchange earnings for export promotion activities, etc. are also available to exporters of agarbatti.

स्टेट बैंक आफ इन्दौर की चांदनी चौक शाखा के एक सेवानिवृत्त प्रधान लिपिक को भविष्य निधि तथा अन्य देयराशियों का भुगतान न किया जाना

3548. **श्री राम नरेश यादव** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि स्टेट बैंक आफ इंदौर की चांदनी चौक शाखा से 1987 में सेवानिवृत्त हुए एक प्रधान लिपिक को भविष्य निधि तथा अन्य देय राशियों का भुगतान अभी तक नहीं किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) प्रधान लिपिक को उक्त जमा राशियों का भुगतान कब तक कर दिए जाने की संभावना है; और

(घ) उक्त कर्मचारी को उसकी जमा धनराशियों पर 1987 से लेकर कितना ब्याज अदा किया जाएगा?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री अनिल शास्त्री) : (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और यथा उपलब्ध सूचना सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएंगी ।

Implementation of the recommendation of Avadhani Committee

3549. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) What are the main recommendations of the Avadhani Committee set up some time back on financing of the handloom cloth producers in the private sector; and

(b) what action has been taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the committee?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) The salient recommendations of the Avadhani Committee made in 1979 *inter-alia* include :

(i) Setting up of a National Handloom Financing and Development Corporation:

(ii) Setting up of Central and State level monitoring committees to review the flow of funds in to the handloom sector;

(iii) Setting up of separate Handloom Development Corporations in States with concentration of more than 1 lakh looms;

(iv) Creation of Thrift Funds Scheme with contribution from the wages of the weavers and from the employers;

(v) Shift in emphasis by the Corporations from production to marketing and availability of working capital to these Corporations at a concessional rate of interest;

(vi) Government and Public Sector enterprises should purchase their entire requirement of textiles to the extent which these can be met from the Handloom sector;

(vii) Reservation in handloom sector to be strictly enforced;

(viii) Banks to make provision for grant of loans for construction of houses for weavers;

(ix) Term loans be given for the purchase of new looms/modernisation of existing looms;

(b) The current position regarding these recommendations are as follows :

(i) The National Handloom Development Corporation was set up by the Government;

(ii) At the National level a Standing Committee to review the flow of credit to the handloom sector has been functioning which includes representatives of Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development. Similarly in 16 States, State level coordination Commitees have also been formed;

(iii) Separate Handloom Development Corporations are now functioning in most States;

(iv) A Thrift Fund Scheme is being implemented by the Central and State Governments.

(v) Handloom Development Corporation are actively involved the marketing of handloom products;

(vi) Central and many State Governments have issued directions for preferential purchases of handloom products;

(vii) The Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 is sub judice in the Supreme Court. A bill has been introduced in the current session of Parliament to Place the Handloom Reservation Act in the IX Schedule of the Constitution.

(viii) Workshed-cum-Housing scheme is being implemented by the Government of India;

(ix) Government is also implementing a scheme on modernisation/purchase of looms for which NABARD refinance is available.

United Bank of India officers organisation

3550. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a new Officers' organisation named as United Bank of India Officers Organisation has been formed at Calcutta;

(b) whether preferential posting of office bearers of the organisation have been made; and

(c) whether an accommodation for the organisation at Head Office has been given. if not reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The United Bank of India Management advised that the President and the General Secretary of the organisation have been transferred strictly, in terms of the seniority and bank's norms applicable to its officers.

(c) The bank has informed that it has stopped the practice of providing accommodation to the trade unions/associations at the Head Office building since 1982.